Inclusion of Rayee and Gurund castes in the list of ST

†3472. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include Rayee and Gurund castes, of people speaking Nepali language, in the list of Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of these castes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The proposals for inclusion of Rayee and Gurund castes in the list of Scheduled Tribes have not been received. However, the proposals for inclusion of Khombu (Rai)/Rai and Gurund communities in the ST list of Sikkim and West Bengal have been received from the State Governments of Sikkim and West Bengal respectively.

The proposals have been processed as per the approved modalities.

Relief policy for tribals in Andhra Pradesh

3473. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest modified relief policy will apply to more than one lakh tribals who will be displaced due to Polavorm Dam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have identified the number of tribals involved in this massive displacement by name and by village;

(c) whether the specific individual needs of such tribals have been taken into consideration;

(d) the directions given to Andhra Pradesh Government to fulfill them; and

(e) the reaction of Andhra Pradesh Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The existing National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation (NPRR) for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Project Affected Families (PAFs) 2003, notified by the Ministry of Rural Development, is applicable to projects displacing 500 families or more en-masse in plain areas and 250 families en-masse in hilly areas, Desert Development Programme Blocks, areas mentioned in Schedule V and Schedule VI of the Constitution. This National Policy has not been revised by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(b) As informed by Government of Andhra Pradesh, the number of project affected tribals have been identified, family-wise and village-wise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has granted clearance to the Resettlement and Rehabilitation Plan for ST PAFs in respect of Polavaram Project of Andhra Pradesh subject to fulfillment of certain conditions by the State Government. Among these conditions, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has directed Government of Andhra Pradesh to follow their Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan, in accordance with the provisions of NPRR 2003. The State Government has also been asked to provide land to STs in the command area of the project, and preferably within the Scheduled Area if the command area and Scheduled Area are co-terminus in lieu of the land acquired from them for the construction of project. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been asked to ensure that R&R Plan is implemented and completed within a specified time schedule before the submergence in any area starts taking place. Further, the State Government has been directed to ensure a better livelihood with dignity for the STs in the new set up and surroundings, and also to protect all the rights and privileges enjoyed by the STs in their original habitat. The State Government has also been directed to ensure through the construction of embankments that no submergence and displacement of tribals takes place in the States of Orissa and Chhattisgarh.

Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005

3474. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representatives of forest dwellers have approached Government to get the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 passed in the ongoing session; and